

WILSON WAR PLAN INDORSED IN HOUSE

President Given Support of
His Party and Wins
Point, 337 to 37.

FIVE DEMOCRATS NOT PERSUADED

Executive Attacked by Republican
Leader, Who Says Invasion
Means Retention of Mexico.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, April 20.—With the martial spirit in the ascendancy and after hours of oratory, with the nation's flag as the theme, the House voted to-night, 337 to 37, to "justify" the use by the President of the armed forces of the United States in Mexico.

Five Democrats, two Progressives, one Independent and twenty-nine Republicans voted against the Flood resolution, which declared that:

"The President of the United States is justified in the employment of armed forces of the United States to enforce demands made upon Victoriano Huerta for unequivocal amends to the government of the United States for affronts and indignities committed against this government by General Huerta and his representatives."

Those who voted against the resolution in the House were:

Democrats—Messrs. George, Kindel, Sisson, Stephens, of Mississippi, and Witherspoon—5.

Republicans—Messrs. Almy, Anderson, Anthony, Bartholdt, Britten, Butler, Campbell, Davis, Fordney, French, Gardner, Gillett, Good, Hayes, Howell, Johnson, Utah, Johnson, of Washington, Kahn, Luskham, La Follette, Madison, Mann, Mondell, Platt, Stiles, Steierson, Stephens, of Minnesota; Volstead and Woods—29.

Progressives—Bell, of California, and Temple—2.

Independent—Kent.

Immediately on its adoption the resolution was rushed to the Senate, which met, after a recess, at 9:45 to consider it. The entire day in the House, from the moment the President read his message until the final vote was taken, was one of spectacular and inspiring features. That the resolution, regardless of its wording, was in effect a declaration of war was alleged by its opponents and tacitly admitted by its proponents. Packed galleries, cheering, patriotic speeches and the vote set off the scene of animation on the floor below. The attendance in the House represented practically every member in the city.

The spectators were little in sympathy with speeches in opposition to the resolutions, and the temper of war seemed to be upon nine-tenths of those crowded within the four walls of the historic House chamber. President Wilson's war message, guardedly worded, was delivered amid surroundings in keeping with the dignity, enthusiasm and potency of a remarkable event.

It was the first time in American history that a President has come, message in hand, to the Congress and personally asked authority to use the army and navy against a sister republic.

That the unanimous action of the House was impossible developed as soon as Chairman Flood, of the Foreign Affairs Committee, introduced his resolution.

Determined but ineffectual efforts were made both in committee and in the House to change its language. Representative Moore offered an amendment declaring that the resolution was not to be construed "as a declaration of war." It was bolterously voted down on a viva voce vote.

Representative Bartholdt, of Missouri, sought to amend the resolution to confine its operation to the exercise by the President of "his constitutional powers." This amendment also failed, receiving only scattering support.

A third attempt to amend the Flood resolution was made by Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts. He endeavored to pledge the Congress to sustain only the action the President might henceforth take.

This amendment, too, met a decisive defeat and the vote was then taken on the resolution proper.

Representative Mann, the minority leader, in a particularly impassioned speech, warned his hearers that the United States was about to declare that invasion of Mexico meant that the flag would never be lowered in that country and that no man about in that hurried vote could see the end of the prospective conflict. The fer-

vent speeches of House members extended over several hours. They were received with rapt attention.

Following the adoption of the resolution to-night Democratic leaders asserted that there is no immediate need of an appropriation to enable the President to use the army and navy. Chairman Fitzgerald of the Appropriations Committee said that the current appropriations of the War and Navy departments are ample at present. Mr. Underwood, the majority leader, admitted that if the blockade is extended and hostilities are prolonged it may be necessary to raise additional revenue. He discussed "possible amendment of the revenue laws," which is tantamount to a statement that, if required, a war tax will be imposed to carry out the plans laid to-night.

The crisis confronting the administration in its fight to force through Congress the resolution prepared at the White House, the use of the armed forces of the United States against General Huerta, was deferred by the action of the Senate in adjourning until ten minutes past midnight. The motion was made by Senator Shively as a parliamentary maneuver after Senator Lodge had objected to his request for unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

When the Senate met at 9 o'clock the House was still voting and a recess was taken till 9:45. In the meantime the opposing forces were forming their plan of action. At the word of administration leaders, the Democratic members abandoned the plan of action that had been practically agreed upon earlier in the day to revamp the resolution. They met hurriedly, at the call of Senator Shively, and decided to carry out the administration edict to pass the resolution as it stands.

A dramatic fight appeared to be inevitable. The Republicans, reluctantly, had apparently come to the conclusion that they could support the resolution as it stands and would debate it at length.

When the resolution was laid before the Senate a few moments after it had been reported from the House, Senator Shively asked that it be considered at once.

"I regret," said Senator Lodge, "that I cannot give my consent. I feel that a subject of such importance, the gravest importance that can be considered by the Senate, should be laid before the committee. I do not wish to delay. That is not my purpose. I will not object to the second reading if the resolution is referred to the committee."

"I realize," said Senator Shively, "that an objection will carry the resolution over for a day."

"Will the Senator from Massachusetts insist upon the enforcement of the second clause of the Senate rule requiring, upon objection, that the resolution go over until to-morrow?" asked Senator Fletcher.

"That depends upon the form of the resolution when it is reported from the committee," replied Mr. Lodge.

"Assuming that it will be unchanged,"

"I prefer not to make such an assumption," said Senator Lodge.

Referred to Committee.

The resolution was referred to the committee, and the majority leaders, evidently unprepared for the crisis, were at a loss what to do next. They gathered in an agitated group in the center of the chamber. A hum of conversation ensued. After a pause of several minutes, during which the Vice-President asked what was the further pleasure of the Senate, Mr. Shively moved that the Senate adjourn until 12:30 o'clock. This motion was carried, the Republicans voting nay.

The Foreign Relations Committee met immediately to consider the resolution. The scene in the Senate chamber to-night was almost without precedent. More than a hundred members of the House huddled in the rear of the chamber to watch the unfolding of events and crowds surged through the corridors of the Senate wing of the Capitol.

Stirring Scenes in Debate.

The vote on the Flood resolution in the House was preceded by an afternoon and early evening of stirring scenes. The dramatic touch was predominated, no matter what the differences regarding the course to pursue; the legislative actors moved on and off the stage, each playing his role before applauding throngs, and there was everywhere the thrill and excitement that go with the writing of history.

It was the presence of the President himself that made to-day's proceedings different and lent to the occasion an appeal to the popular imagination which even the Spanish War message did not possess.

The setting was all the President could desire for the delivery of an epoch-making message. Before him sat more than four hundred of the nation's lawmakers. In the galleries were the diplomatic emissaries of foreign governments, vitally concerned in a sister nation's burden. In an opposite gallery were Mrs. Wilson and others from the White House. Stretching out along the walls of the big chamber were other galleries, packed to their limit with expectant men and women who had waited for hours to see the headlines in a momentous drama of war. The members of the Cabinet moved about solemnly

on the floor, finally taking seats in the front rows.

Whole Government There.

The entire governmental machinery of the nation, in fact, was gathered in one room under the big Capitol dome, and from the humblest spectator to the man of chief interest—the President—there was no one present who did not realize the possible import of the scene.

President Wilson entered the chamber at 9 o'clock, escorted by a committee representing the two bodies of Congress. There was a minute of wild applause, in which the galleries joined. In a far corner a Southern Democrat cut loose with the "rebel yell," and it was taken up by a few other Southerners who have not forgotten the days of the '60s.

The President stood bowing ever so slightly, with his eyes facing the center of the chamber. Perhaps he did not notice the lack of cheering on the Republican side of the chamber, but the truth is there was practically no demonstration on the left-hand side of the rostrum. The minority were in an attitude of "watchful waiting." They were interested mainly in the contents of the President's message. Many of them hoped the President would go into particulars concerning the need of drastic action in Mexico.

President Applauded at Finish.

When the President concluded the reading of his message there was again a round of applause in which the galleries joined, but which lacked with the spontaneity one might have expected upon a history-making event of this character. The President left the chamber quickly and almost before he was out of the building Chairman Flood of the Foreign Affairs Committee called a meeting of that body and began the consideration of the resolution "justifying" the President in using the armed forces of the United States against Huerta.

Presenting the resolution promptly to

WILSON ASKS AUTHORITY TO USE ARMED FORCES

President Tells Congress There Is No Thought of
Aggrandizement in Mexico—Only Aim Is to
Maintain Country's Dignity and Authority.

Washington, April 20.—President Wilson laid the Mexican situation before Congress to-day in these words:

"Gentlemen of the Congress: It is my duty to call your attention to a situation which has arisen in our dealings with General Victoriano Huerta at Mexico City which calls for action, and to ask your advice and co-operation in acting upon it."

"On the 9th of April a paymaster of the United States steamship Dolphin landed at the Iturbide bridge landing at Tampico with a whaleboat and boat's crew to take off certain supplies needed by his ship, and while engaged in loading the boat was arrested by an officer and squad of men of the army of General Huerta. Neither the paymaster nor any one of the boat's crew was armed."

"The manifest danger of such a situation was that such offenses might grow from bad to worse until something happened of so gross and intolerable a sort as to lead directly and inevitably to armed conflict. It was necessary that the apologies of General Huerta and his representatives should go much further, that they should be such as to attract the attention of the whole population to their significance and such as to impress upon General Huerta himself the necessity of seeing to it that no further occasion for explanations and proffered regrets should arise."

"I therefore felt it my duty to sustain Admiral Mayo in the whole of his demand and to insist that the flag of the United States should be saluted in such a way as to indicate a new spirit and attitude on the part of Huertistas."

"Such a salute General Huerta has refused, and I have come to ask your approval and support in the course I now purpose to pursue."

No War Against Mexico.

"This government can, I earnestly hope, in no circumstances be forced into war with the people of Mexico. Mexico is torn by civil strife. If we are to accept the tests of its own constitution, it has no government. General Huerta has set his power up in the city of Mexico such as it is without right and by methods for which there can be no justification."

"Only part of the country is under his control. If armed conflict should unhappily come as a result of his attitude of personal resentment toward this government we should be fighting only General Huerta and those who adhere to him and give him their support, and our object would be only to restore to the people of the distracted republic the opportunity to set up again their own laws and their own government."

Friendship for Mexican People.

"But I earnestly hope that war is not now in question. I believe that I speak for the American people when I say that we do not desire to control in any degree the affairs of our sister republic. Our feeling for the people of Mexico is one of deep and genuine friendship, and everything that we have so far done or refrained from doing has proceeded from our desire to help them, not to hinder or embarrass them."

"We would not wish even to exercise the good offices of friendship without their welcome and consent. The people of Mexico are entitled to settle their own domestic affairs in their own way, and we sincerely desire to respect their right. The present situation need have none of the grave complications of interference if we deal with it promptly, firmly and wisely."

"No doubt I could do what is necessary in the circumstances to enforce respect for our government without recourse to the Congress, and yet not exceed my constitutional powers as President, but I do not wish to act in a matter possibly of so grave consequence except in close conference and co-operation with both the Senate and House."

Asks Authority to Use Force.

"I, therefore, come to ask your approval that I should use the armed forces of the United States in such ways and to such an extent as may be necessary to obtain from General Huerta and his adherents the fullest recognition of the rights and dignity of the United States, even amidst the distressing conditions now unhappily obtaining in Mexico."

"There can in what we do be no thought of aggression or of selfish aggrandizement. We seek to maintain the dignity and authority of the United States only because we wish always to keep our great influence unimpaired for the uses of liberty, both in the United States and wherever else it may be employed for the benefit of mankind."

Had Rule Ready.

"The Rules Committee is ready with a rule," responded Mr. Underwood. "I am not inclined to object if we can agree on a time limit for debate," said Mr. Mann.

Then followed the period of across-the-aisle verbal sparring. Mr. Underwood saying that the President regarded it as imperative that the resolution be adopted immediately.

"We would not attempt to pass the resolution to-night," said Mr. Underwood, "but for the serious condition on the border."

"I am not apprehensive about that," said Mr. Mann. "The President, however, says he wants our advice. Before we commit this government to war we should at least have time to draw our breath."

"We are facing a condition to-day," replied Mr. Underwood, "where the legislative branch of the government is expected to sustain the Chief Executive of the nation. I trust there is no partisanship here."

"If the President wants our advice, that is one thing," said Mr. Mann. "If he is to tell us what to do, that is another. I try to sustain the President in a national crisis, but not my duty to my country above allegiance to any President. We should have deliberation here."

An agreement to debate the resolution for two hours, the Republican side to control an hour and a half of the time, had practically been reached when Representative Sisson, a Mississippi Democrat, objected to any arrangement where-

in the minority would receive more time than the majority.

"Why are they to have an hour and a half?" he demanded, "while we, the majority, have only an hour?"

Underwood Reads Lecture.

Gazing steadily at his Democratic colleague and with reproach in his voice, Mr. Underwood said: "This is not a time to talk of parties. This is not a party question. It is the duty of members on this side of the chamber to sustain the President of the United States. What the other side does is a question to be decided there."

"I object," shouted Sisson, blocking the attempt for a unanimous consent agreement. There were hisses in the galleries.

Representative Henry, of the Rules Committee, jumped to his feet with a rule to accomplish immediate consideration of the resolution. An agreement was finally reached, following forty minutes' discussion of the rule, that debate should continue for two hours and ten minutes. It was also agreed that members speaking on the resolution should have the privilege of offering amendments, the vote upon amendments to be taken in order after the wind-up of the discussion.

With the prospect of the voting several hours removed members began to desert the floor until the attendance dwindled to less than one hundred. The seats filled again by 8 o'clock. The galleries also were partly relieved of their congestion during the debate, although hundreds remained to listen to patriotic outbursts, punctuated here and there with criticism from the Republican side based on the failure of the President to move against Carranza and Villa as well as Huerta.

Mann Calls It War Declaration.

"Without thinking, without care, we propose to adopt this resolution which is, in effect, a declaration of war," said Mr. Mann, in a speech which was indicative of the general attitude of the opponents of the measure.

"It is more than a declaration of war. It means that the United States has become the ally of the murderous crew in Northern Mexico, which is guilty of the murder of men and the outraging of women."

"I am not willing to declare war against Huerta just because the President does not like him," said Mr. Mann, amid jeers from the Democratic side. "That is the real reason for this resolution," he continued. "I am not to be deterred from the position I take by slightest remarks or laughter, because I believe we owe to the American flag a higher duty than demanding a salute from Huerta. We owe to the American flag that it shall stand for right and justice in all the world."

"Huerta has been President of the Mexican republic for more than a year. I do not condone the method by which he secured that position, nor am I willing to declare war against him because of the President's dislike for him."

"Would you support a resolution to recognize the Huerta government?" asked Mr. Henry, of Texas.

"When the question arises I will meet it," said Mr. Mann. "I will do what I think to be right. I would not object if the President would stop the rapine, would stop the outrages, would stop the murders and the destruction of property and lives in the northern portion of Mexico."

Mann Quotes Record.

Mr. Mann spoke twice in opposition to the resolution. He closed the opposition argument by answering Democratic assertions that the then minority had supported President McKinley on the Spanish war resolution.

"Gentlemen who claim this," he said, "forget the record. For month after month the Democratic side of the House had harried President McKinley because he did not do what the Democratic side thought should be done in Cuba. When

the vote came in the House there were two rollcalls, on which the Democrats voted almost solidly against the President.

"But that is not the question here to-night. No one can forget what will be the result of this war. When we went into Cuba some of us believed we would simply go in there, restore peace and get out. I saw us take the Philippines, Porto Rico, acquire Hawaii. I have seen the army grow from a minimum of 25,000 men to 100,000 men. I have seen the navy grow from an annual cost of \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000 to \$120,000,000 and \$140,000,000."

"I do not believe it is possible to have war with Mexico and ever leave Mexico. When our troops, as the result of war, land in Mexico City, when we have finished the war, we will own Mexico. I am not ready here to-night to take the responsibility of that ownership, although I know that when we put the troops there and come into possession of that country some will say—and they will be in the majority, and I may say with them—'We will never haul down the flag that the blood of our boys have planted in Mexico.'"

Underwood Makes Reply.

Replying to Mr. Mann and closing debate for the resolution, Mr. Underwood said:

"This resolution may mean war or it may mean peace. Let us hope that the ultimate result that will be achieved by the passage of this resolution will be peace and good order in the republic of Mexico and the establishment of friendly relations between our two republics. But whether it means peace or whether it means war there are times that come in the history of nations, as there are times that come in the life of man, when honor must be maintained no matter what the cost. Your country is facing that condition to-day. No man can say that our great government has not dealt with the people of Mexico and the governments that it has attempted to establish with the greatest patience and the greatest consideration."

"We have hoped from day to day that a peaceful settlement might be reached, but I will say to you that peace never comes to the door of the coward; that

peace without strife never comes to that nation that is not willing to protect its citizenship, sustain its property interests in a foreign country and, above all other things, compel a decent respect to the flag of the nation."

"The flag that is the emblem of our civilization, the flag that is the emblem of our past, the flag that stands for all the honor and glory of our country, the flag that makes it safe for an American to put his foot on foreign soil, the flag that protects our homes and our firesides."

"That flag has been dishonored in a foreign land, on foreign soil."

"The President of the United States comes here to-day, and though he has not asked you to declare war he asks you to sustain him in using the military forces of our government to require decent respect for that flag and an honorable consideration for the rights of your government."

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